

REMARKS

Status Summary

Claims 1-40 are pending in the present application, claims 1, 29, 39, and 40 have been amended, and no claims have been canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-40 will be pending.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-12 and 15-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0132449 to Kowarsch, hereinafter referred to as Kowarsch. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 15, 29, and 39 recite methods and systems where a routing node located between an HLR and a VLR caches information relating to signaling messages transmitted between the HLR and the VLR and uses the cached information to process or route subsequent signaling messages. Each of these claims have been amended to recite that one of the types of messages that is processed is a ProvideRoamingNumber message generated by the HLR in response to a request for routing information for a mobile terminated call to a subscriber. Each of the claims recites that in response to such a message, the routing node uses cached information to identify serving MSC and VLR information for the subscriber. Support for this amendment is found, for example, on page 34, line 14 through page 35, line 20 and in Figure 10 of the present application.

There is absolutely no disclosure, teaching, or suggestion in Kowarsch of a method or a system where a routing node located between an HLR and a VLR caches

information from signaling messages transmitted between the HLR and the VLR and uses the cached information to locate or identify serving MSC and VLR information in response to a ProvideRoamingNumber message for a mobile terminated call to the subscriber. Rather than contacting the visited network to locate a roaming number for a subscriber in response to a mobile terminated call, Kowarsch discloses a forced call forwarding message where the HLR is notified at registration time of a dialable mobile station visitor's temporary local number (MSVTLN) assigned to the subscriber while the subscriber is in the visited network. Kowarsch indicates that for mobile terminated calls, the home network forwards all calls to the MSVTLN issued by the visited network. For example, Kowarsch states:

When the mobile station 11 is turned on in the visited network and allocated a temporary number MSVTLN, the XLR 115 serving the visited network sends a signal to the apparatus in the home network, which provides for forwarding of calls to the MSVTLN issued by the visited network. The home network 1 will then forward all incoming calls to the temporary number in the visited network 3. (See column 12, lines 3-10 in paragraph [0192] of Kowarsch.)

From this passage, Kowarsch indicates that all calls are forwarded from the home network to the MSVTLN issued by the visited network. There is no disclosure of using cached information to process a ProvideRoamingNumber message to identify serving MSC and VLR information for the call. Kowarsch does not mention a ProvideRoamingNumber message or how to process such a message. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-12 and 15-40 as anticipated by Kowarsch should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kowarsch in view of Official Notice. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 13 and 14 depend from independent claim 1. As stated above with regard to the rejection of claim 1, Kowarsch fails to teach or suggest a routing node that uses cached information to locate serving MSC and VLR information for a subscriber in response to a ProvideRoamingNumber message generated for a mobile terminated call to the subscriber. The fact that the Official Action takes official notice that SS7 is well known does not teach or suggest that processing of a ProvideRoamingNumber message using cached information as claimed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 13 and 14 as unpatentable over Kowarsch in view of official notice should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks and Amendments, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

Serial No.: 10/044,203

A check in the amount of \$1,810.00 is enclosed. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies of payment or credit any overpayments associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 8, 2007

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. A. Hunt', is written over a horizontal line.

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